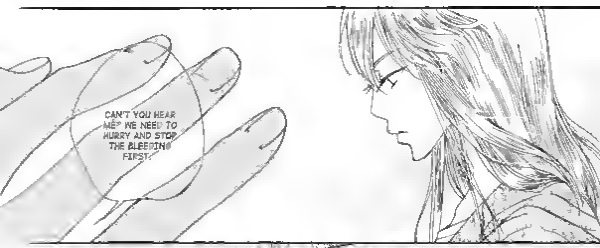
C Hide
2
Roureville

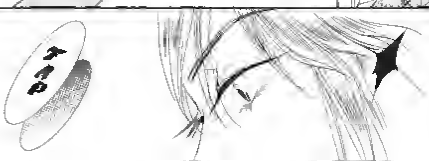
Roureville

VOL.2 [h]

BLINDING SUNLIGHT,
BLOOD DRIPPING DOWN HIS HAND, FORMING A SMALL POOL.
THUD
...SHIT!
JAKE SHOWING NO RESPONSE, LIKE A PUPPET WITH ITS STRINGS CUT OFF

JAYCE!
ACK
TAP
STARE
HEY!


CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? WE NEED TO HURRY AND STOP THE BLEEDING FIRST!


TAP

SWISH
?
GROWL
WHAT WAS THAT?
I WAS TRYING TO HELP YOU, DAMN IT!
AH?
.....

HAH
ANYWAY, LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE BLEEDING HEAVILY
SHOW ME THE WOUND FIRST
I MAY NOT LOOK IT BUT I'VE HAD BASIC EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRAINING
YOUR HAND
SHIIF
THWAP
HE AVOIDED ME AGAIN?
I I DON'T NEED ANY HELP
DUH
!
THANKS
SUSH

WHY?
WHAT THE HELL DID I DO?!
ANGER
GRRR

WHY DID HE AVOID MY TOUCH?

WHEEEEEE

IS HE ASLEEP?
HE FOLLOWED ME AROUND LIKE A LAPDOG ANNOYING THE HELL OUT OF ME. THEN, HE SUDDENLY DIDN'T EVEN SHOW HIS FACE ALL AFTERNOON...
YOU'RE BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.
YOU'RE TOO WEIRD TO FIGURE OUT.
MMM
EHHH EHHH
PAUSE
GRAB
TUSSLE
EMMM
THIS IS PROBLEMATIC

THUD..
HEH
!
...
TEDDY BEARS ARE JUST THE THING FOR LONELY KIDS.
TAP
TAP
TAP

HA?!
...
HAVE I GOTTEN USED TO THIS PLACE ALREADY?
SILENT AND REFINED, WITHOUT NOISE OR FUMES.
ABOVE ALL, IT'S PEACEFUL HERE.
NATURAL SERENITY.
HU
VACATIONING IN A RURAL TOWN ISN'T SO BA
HU HU HU

CLICK
FLASH
SLIDE
JAY...OP
WH...Y...?

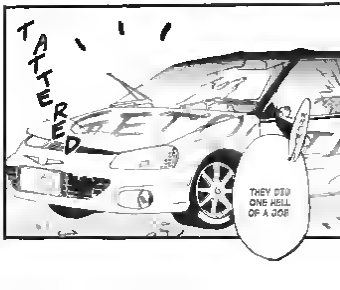
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY"?
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TOO?
WHA UM!
...

SWISH
S-T...
I END UP WITH A NOBODY LIKE YOU.
GRR
HEU
EVAN
AH OW!
AROUSED BY HIS ENTICEMENT, I JUMP TO HIM...
AH...
HEU
EVAN
EVAN!
AND I FELL INTO HIS ARMS INTENSELY

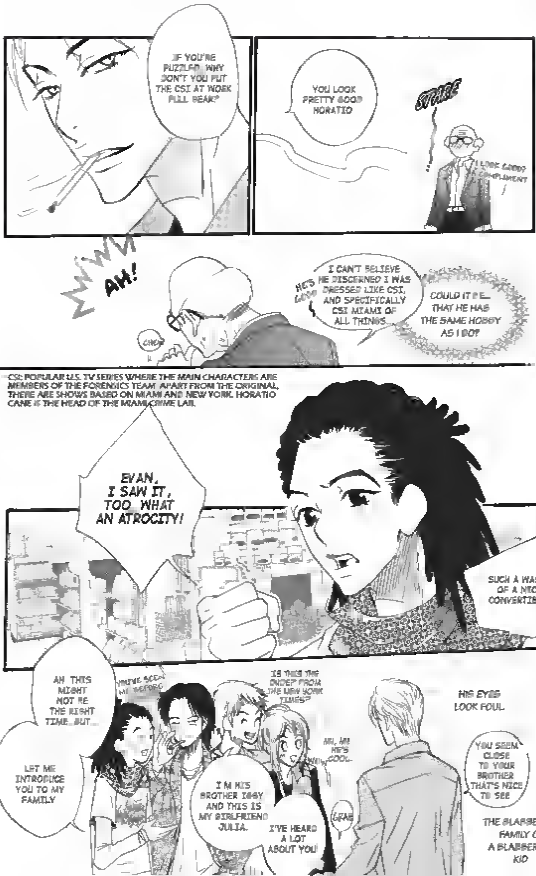
SCALDINGLY
DEEP
BEEPER,
BEEPER
INTO HIM...
NO-!
SNAP!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH!
HAH...
ENERGY
IT'S A DREAM.
DRO
OPY
KE...
KUT SEB.
WHAT T YOU...?!
DO I HAVE BISEXUAL TENDENCIES?
...IF NOT
WHY THE HELL DID I GIVE HIM THAT STUPID TEDDY BEAR?
WHY?

I DON'T SWING THAT WAY.

NEVER!!



SOMEBODY HOLDS A GREAT DEAL OF ANIMOSITY AGAINST YOU, NOP
I TOLD YOU YOU SHOULD HURRY UP AND LEAVE
THIS IS THE DOOR
NICE JOB
I WONDER STARTED THE DAY WITH A SICK DREAM
EVERYTHING IS SMASHED EXCEPT FOR THE WHEELS, HUMP
KE KE KE
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
IT WILL COST YOU A FORTUNE TO FIX THIS UP--
WHERE'S THE NEAREST AUTO SHOP?
NOTHING PROPER BUT CORETTA TAKES CARE OF PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING SO
SNIFF
...
HAH HAH HAH
THIS IS QUITE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO INTIMIDATE SOMEONE!
TRUE. HOW COME YOU DIDN'T USE THIS METHOD EARLIER, FATHER?
TELL ME ABOUT IT. I WONDER WHY I NEVER THOUGHT OF THIS MYSELF
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THAT IT WASN'T ME?
FROOSH
IF IT WAS YOU YOU WOULD HAVE DESTROYED MY CAR WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK.


IF YOU'RE PUZZLED, WHY DON'T YOU PUT THE CSI AT WORK FILL HEAR?
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD HORATIO
SPARE
LOOK GOOD COMPLIMENT
AH!
CHECK
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DISCERNED I WAS DRESSED LIKE CSI, AND SPECIFICALLY CSI MIAMI OF ALL THINGS...
HE'S GOOD
COULD IT BE... THAT HE HAS THE SAME HOBBY AS I DO?
CS: POPULAR U.S. TV SERIES WHERE THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE MEMBERS OF THE FORENSICS TEAM. APART FROM THE ORIGINAL, THERE ARE SHOWS BASED ON MIAMI AND NEW YORK. HORATIO CANE IS THE HEAD OF THE MIAMI CRIME LAB.
EVAN, I SAW IT, TOO. WHAT AN ATROCITY!
SUCH A WASTE OF A NICE CONVERTIBLE!
AH. THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE RIGHT TIME...BUT...
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY
I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE
IS THIS THE ONE? FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES?
I'M HIS BROTHER IAN AND THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND JULIA.
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU
HIS EYES LOOK FOUL
MU, MI HE'S COOL.
GRAB
YOU SEEM CLOSE TO YOUR BROTHER. THAT'S NICE TO SEE
THE BLABBERING FAMILY OF A BLABBERING KID

WOW
HE'S A REAL GUY
HA HA HA
YOU OKAY?
UM... I'M SORRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED.
I'M GETTING ANNOYED... WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING? DID YOU DO IT?
NO, I MEAN
SORRY
DAMN, HE GETS ON MY NERVES.
HOW UNFORTUNATE MR. PRYCE SUPERVISING THE PARKING LOT IS BEYOND MY RESPONSIBILITY
LOOK I DON'T CARE I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HOLDING YOU RESPONSIBLE
OH YEAH? HOW LAUDABLE. I'M PISSED OFF
PUFF PUFF
HOW DARE THEY GO CRAZY ON MY PROPERTY?
MR PRYCE A BULKY ENVELOPE CAME IN FOR YOU
I WASN'T THAT ANGRY, EXCEPT...
I GUESS I CAN NO LONGER BREEZE THROUGH MY LIFE'S EVENTS AS IF IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S BUSINESS.

COULD IT POSSIBLY BE A BACKGROUND CHECK ON SOMEONE OR...
WHOOO
PUFF PUFF PUFF
WHO KNOWS? BUT STILL IT COULDN'T BE ANYTHING LIKE
LOOKS THICK THAT'S SUSPICIOUS WHAT'S INSIDE?
AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF ROUREVILLE LIVES A BAND OF ARMED ROBBERS OR SOME SUCH THING CURRENTLY ON THE FBI'S MOST WANTED LIST?
CLICK

YOU SON OF
SWISH
SWISH
CRASH
CRASH
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

RAGE
NO, IT'S "WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?" BACKGROUND CHECK?
YOU TRICKED US!
YO, BIG BROTHER, IGGY'S COVER IS BLOWN!
GWA...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT THIS IS A...
LET'S GET RID OF HIM RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!
DANGEROUS SITUATION!
I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT STUFFY FIGHTING.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!
THWAP
EUH
NI
NUH-UH! HE'S PRETTY GOOD
WHOOSH
DAMN I LEFT THE GUN AT HOME
THAT MORON SKIPPY HE'S AN EXPERT AT CAUSING TROUBLE.
WELL IT'S A PITY BUT THIS WILL HAVE TO DO

SHIT
FLASH
HEY, THAT'S CHEATING
WHO GIVES A SHIT I JUST GOTTA WIN
EVAN...!
SLIDE

JAYCE!

HA
HA
DOPS
I'M CAUGHT
IT WENT
THROUGH HIM?
JAY... DIE?
WHAT?

Roureville

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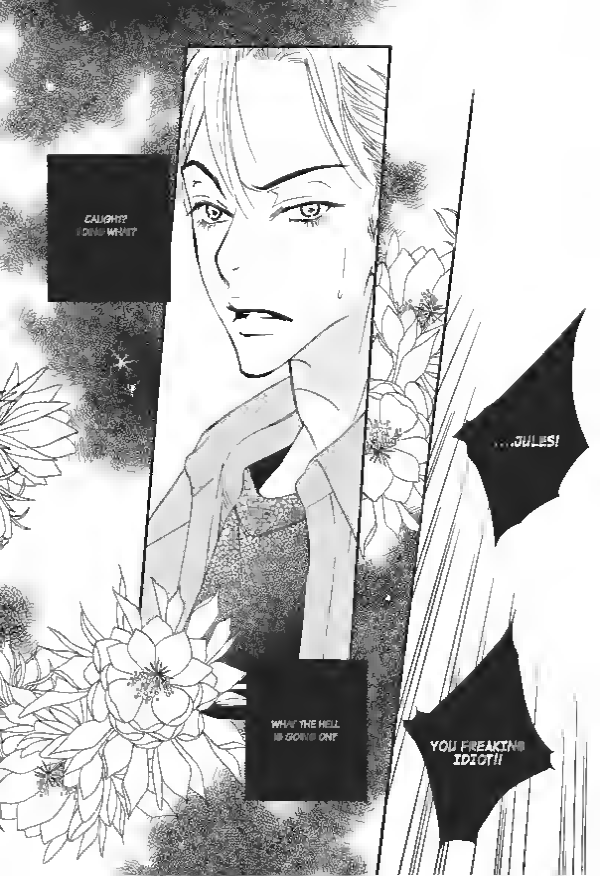
ROUREVILLE #08
THE WARMTH OF HIS HAND

HE'S NOT EVEN BLEEDING.
TRENES
MY HAND WENT THROUGH HIS WHOLE TORSO-- IT'S UNREAL.
GRIN


CALIGHT?
I DIDN'T WANT
...JULES!
WHAT THE HELL
IS GOING ON?
YOU FREAKING
IDIOT!!

AAAH !!!
WHAT DO I DO NOW?
ACK!!!

PAK
YOU, TOO, SKI[illegible]YP! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
CRASH
WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE LIKE AN IDIOT JULES?! USE YOUR KNIFE!
NO VIOLENCE IN MY STORE!!
I TRIED STABBING HIM, YOU KNOW"
FOR SURE I FELT THE KNIFE PLUNGE INTO SOMETHING
I'M DIZZY... IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY VISION...?
AH... I GOT HIT AT THE BACK OF MY HEAD... I GUESS I COLLAPSED.
IDIOTS! THE STUPIDEST THING IN THE WORLD IS THE IDEA YOU CAN SOLVE EVERYTHING THROUGH VIOLENCE!
HEY MIKE, YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MESS?!
WAH
I'M TELLING YOU I DEFINITELY FELT IT!
I STABBED HIM WITH THIS HAND!
SLIDE
BUT WHAT IF THIS PUNK DISCLOSES OUR IDENTITY-?
SIGH... VIOLENCE IS BAD... KEKE...

AH, THE TIME! ...
EVAN
JAYCE...?
WHO.....
EVAN?
STUPID, DON'T MOVE. YOU GOT STABBED, YOU IDIOT...
AH... RIGHT THE KNIFE... IT WENT THROUGH HIM...
SO, DOES THAT MEAN HE'S OKAY?
EVAN PRYCE WAKE UP!
JAYCE... WHAT A STRANGE EXPRESSION...

IRENE!
WHAT? HE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS?
GET A DOC...!
DON'T WORRY. NOBODY DIES FROM GETTING HIT BY A FRYING PAN
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO IRENE?
YEAH... I'M NOT GONNA DIE OVER THIS.
I'M FINE.
I REALLY AM...
PASSING OUT IS A RARE EXPERIENCE.
YET TO YOU, I'M ONLY SHOWING THIS SORT OF WEAK SIDE...

SHIT...
THIS IS, I MUST SAY, AN EXCEPTION...
.....

IT...
WASN'T ME

I DIDN'T RAT ANYONE OUT
HAH
ME, BETRAY THE ORGANIZATION? DOES THAT MAKES SENSE TO YOU?
DAMN, ANOTHER DREAM...
THEN, HOW DO YOU THINK THEY REALLY FOUND OUT ABOUT THE TRANSACTION LOCATION?
SLIDE
ALL I DID WAS TALK ABOUT GOLF WITH YOU. YOU KNOW THAT
NO, YOU ONLY GOT WHAT YOU DESERVE! YOU PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES!
THINK ABOUT ALL THE HORRIBLE DEEDS YOU DID TO OTHER PEOPLE.
STAY CALM. THIS IS A DREAM. IT'S ONLY A DREAM.
THEN, WHAT ABOUT US?
WERE WE PAYING FOR OUR CRIMES, TOO?

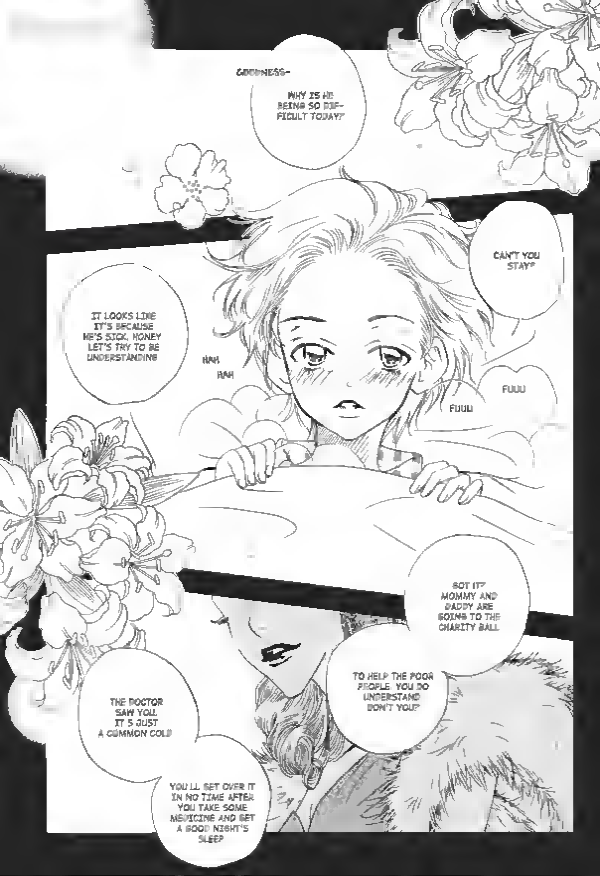
I'M INNOCENT
I SWEAR I NEVER DIVULGED THE LOCATION OF THE SECRET SAFE THAT HELD THE BOSS'S BACKUP ACCOUNT BOOK
CALM DOWN. THIS IS ONLY YOUR IMAGINATION.
SHE CAN'T BE BLEEDING. THAT WOMAN HUNG HERSELF!
I DIDN'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING WICKED TO DESERVE THIS
SSSSSS
HE.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, BLAMING SOMEONE ELSE?
YOU LIVED KEEPING ONE FOOT IN THE UNDERWORLD. DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T SEE THIS MUCH WAS COMING

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
SSS
STARTLE
THIS CHILD IS INNOCENT. SHE'S COMMITTED NO SINS.
YOU KNOW VERY WELL, DON'T YOU?
GASP
YOU SOLD US OUT... ARE YOU SATISFIED?
MOMMY
THIS STIFLING STENCH OF ROTTING FLESH!
I SHOULD CALM DOWN. THIS IS A DREAM.
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
HAH
HAH
...WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU...
DON'T GET SUCKED INTO IT. THIS IS ONLY A DREAM!

IT'S ONLY A DREAM, BUT...!
ARE YOU
NO...
HAPPY NOW?
'HAPPY'?
MY BLOOD TURNS COLD IN AN INSTANT.

EVAN?
IS HE HAVING NIGHTMARES OR SOMETHING?
HAH
HAH
I CAN'T TOUCH HIM. SO I CAN'T WAKE HIM UP EITHER. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
NERVOUS ANXIOUS
SLIDE
HAH
HAH
HE'S DRENCHED IN SWEAT

PAUSE
WHEW
WHEW
DON'T GO
STAY. NEXT
IS HE TALKING IN HIS SLEEP?
.....
WON'T GO...!

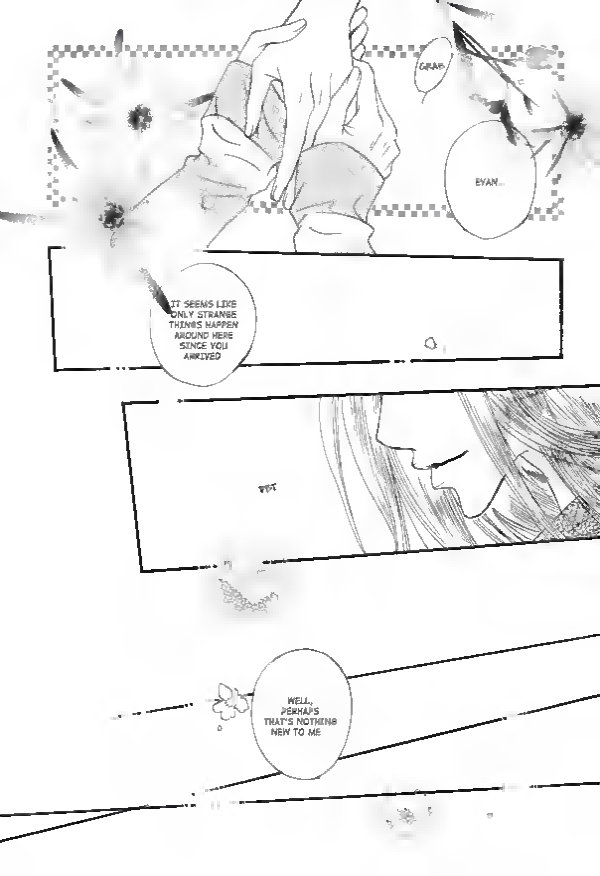

GOODNESS-
WHY IS HE BEING SO DIFFICULT TODAY?
CAN'T YOU STAY?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SICK, HONEY LET'S TRY TO BE UNDERSTANDING
HAH HAH
FUUU
FUUU
GOT IT? MOMMY AND DADDY ARE GOING TO THE CHARITY BALL
TO HELP THE POOR PEOPLE. YOU DO UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
THE DOCTOR SAW YOU. IT'S JUST A COMMON COLD
YOU'LL GET OVER IT IN NO TIME AFTER YOU TAKE SOME MEDICINE AND GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

NOW GO TO SLEEP LIKE A GOOD BOY
HE USUALLY ACTS MATURE, BUT I SUPPOSE A KID IS A KID
CUTAK
FORGET MOMMY!
FUUU
FUUU FUUU
DON'T GO...
MOMMY?
WHAT USE IS THEM GOING TO A CHARITY BALL? THEY'RE JUST HYPOCRITES WHO DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN KID
GRAB
TCHE
I TOLD YOU NOT TO RELY ON THOSE PEOPLE DIDN'T I, EVAN ..?
STAY BY MY SIDE...

GR
-AB
PLEASE...

HE CAN TOUCH ME?
THUMP
MUMBLE
NAH
NAH
BY MY SIDE
.....

I WON'T LEAVE...
SO DON'T WORRY...
I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE.


GRAB
EVAN...
IT SEEMS LIKE ONLY STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN AROUND HERE SINCE YOU ARRIVED
PAT
WELL, PERHAPS THAT'S NOTHING NEW TO ME

SEE? I TOLD YOU THERE WERE GOING TO BE PROBLEMS

STARE
IF ONLY THOSE IDIOTS DIDN'T MISUNDERSTAND WHAT EVAN SAID
THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN THIS BAD
MISUNDERSTAND?

THEY PANICKED! THAT THEIR COVER WAS BLOWN! THAT'S WHY THEY ATTACKED THAT PUNK
I SEE
PUNK
THAT PUNK
YEAH. APPARENTLY SKIPPY AND HIS BAND OF MORONS ARE CONVICTED BURGLARS WITH A BOUNTY ON THEIR HEADS
WHAT KIND OF TEA IS THIS? IT'S GOT A KILLER TASTE.
YEAH. EVAN SAID IT WAS A SPECIAL TEA HE BROUGHT IT
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?
NOT ONLY SKIPPY'S TRUE IDENTITY IS EXPOSED, BUT SO IS THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A GHOST...
SHO...!
I'M DIFFERENT THAN A GHOST IRENE
WHATEVER.
YOU'RE THE LAST ONE WHO SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS, IRENE.
SLIDE

SHOULD I SAY PAMELA TOPAZ, FAMED DIVA OF THE MODELING WORLD, COLD AS ICE...
OR
Ahhh

Roureville

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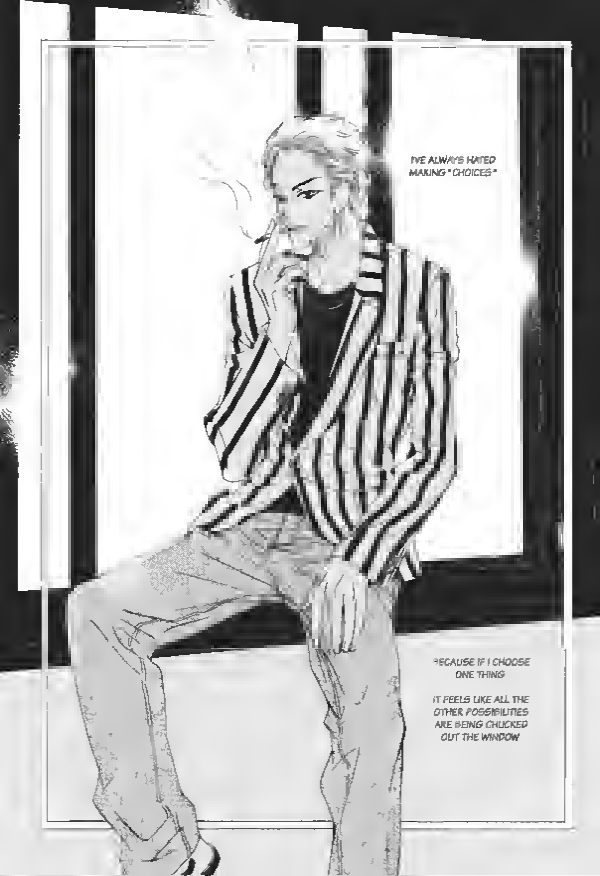
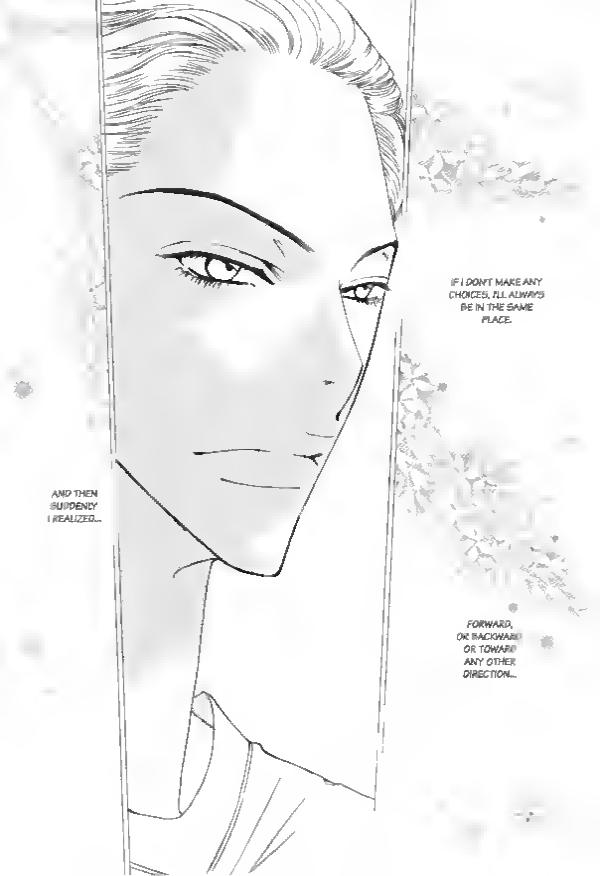
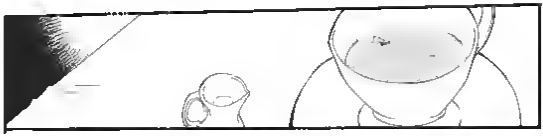

I'VE ALWAYS HATED MAKING "CHOICES"
BECAUSE IF I CHOOSE ONE THING
IT FEELS LIKE ALL THE OTHER POSSIBILITIES ARE BEING CHUCKED OUT THE WINDOW


IF I DON'T MAKE ANY CHOICES, I'LL ALWAYS BE IN THE SAME PLACE.
AND THEN SUDDENLY I REALIZED...
FORWARD, OR BACKWARD OR TOWARD ANY OTHER DIRECTION...

I'LL NEVER MOVE.

Roureville #09
OPPORTUNITIES SHOWER
DOWN LIKE SHOOTING STARS
Listen to your heart

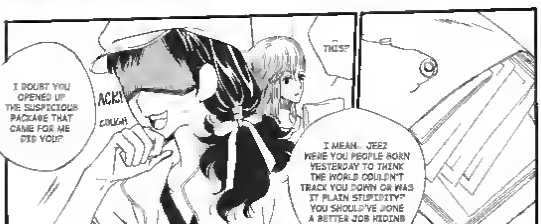


WHAT KIND OF CHEESY NAME IS THAT?
CLICK..
WHERE ON EARTH YOU PICK UP THAT NONSENSE?
.....
"TINKERBELL WHO DOESN'T LAUGH"...?
IT'S "TINKERBELL WITHOUT A SMILE." CORETTA TOLD YOU ABOUT IT, HUH? HE ALWAYS DOES STUPID THINGS
SO, YOU'RE NOT BUYING IT... HUH?
PUFF..
HOOO
THERE'S NO USE, RIGHT?
WELL, MY FACE ISN'T THAT HARD TO RECOGNIZE AS LONG AS YOU PAY SOME ATTENTION
SO? WHAT ABOUT IT? YOU PLAN ON THREATENING ME WITH THAT SMALL DETAIL, BUDDY?

I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UM... IRENE UM...
LOOK HERE, JERK. YOU KEEP ASSUMING THE WRONG THING...
WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT YOU ...

I'M TALKING ABOUT "ALL OF YOU"
!!

SLIDE
"CELEBRITIES WHO DISAPPEARED FROM THE SPOTLIGHT A FEW YEARS AGO...
HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ENJOYING THEIR RUNAWAY LIFE IN A SECLUDED RURAL TOWN!"


I DOUBT YOU OPENED UP THE SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE THAT CAME FOR ME OTO YOU?
ACK! COUGH
THIS?
I MEAN.. JEEZ WERE YOU PEOPLE BORN YESTERDAY TO THINK THE WORLD COULDN'T TRACK YOU DOWN OR WAS IT PLAIN STUPIDITY? YOU SHOULD'VE DONE A BETTER JOB HIDING YOUR IDENTITIES.

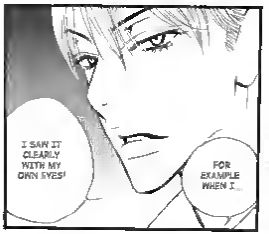
A POPULAR SUPERMODEL WHO SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AT THE HEIGHT OF HER CAREER.
THE BAD-BOY OF THE ART WORLD WHO RECENTLY WENT MISSING AFTER CAUSING A STORM IN THE FINE ARTS SCENE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS.
THE BIG SHOT STOCK BROKER WHO HELD WALL STREET IN THE PALM OF HIS HANDS ONLY 10 YEARS AGO
THE GENIUS PIANIST WHO VANISHED INTO THIN AIR DURING A RECITAL IN ASIA
DISAPPEARED

before
after
THAT OLD PRIEST I HAD A HARD TIME RECOGNIZING HIM BECAUSE HE LOST SO MUCH WEIGHT HE NEVER CAME BACK AFTER LEAVING HOME SUPPOSEDLY ON A FISHING TRIP... AM I RIGHT?
MAYBE I CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM IF I DO SOME RESEARCH. WAS HIS NAME JOHNSON OR ?
YOU... YOU ALREADY KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT US AND ?

SIR. YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING US ALL ALONG?
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN READ THESE FILES YET

HER
CELEBRITY
YOU GUYS WERE TOO SLOPPY. A FEW YEARS MAY HAVE PASSED BUT YOU'RE STILL CELEBRITIES.
OH YEAH AND IF I ADD THE "ARMED ROBBERS" AND A "GHOST" TO THE MIX...
ONE OF YOU IS ENOUGH TO DRAW ATTENTION. AND ALL OF YOU IN ONE PLACE. THIS IS PERFECT FOR BREAKING NEWS ISN'T IT?

WOWZA! WE CAN HAVE AN EXHIBITION RIGHT HERE WITH YOU PEOPLE!
HMMM
A GHOST? YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T LOSE YOUR MIND WHEN YOU GOT HIT ON THE HEAD?
I...IRENE! YOU KNOW...


I SAW IT CLEARLY WITH MY OWN EYES!
FOR EXAMPLE WHEN I...

SEE...
TRIED TO TOUCH HIM LIKE THIS...

NO, JAYCE!!
TH/WAP
MY HAND JUST GOES RIGHT...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
IRENE I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU...
Um...
THEN...!
SWEEP
JAYCE
YOU'RE ALRIGHT THEN?
EH?
IRENE, WAIT ..!

SHOOOOO
HUH?!
*RIGHT THROUGH!^^*
HRM?
SHOOO
HRM?
SHOOO
HRM?
HRM?
SHOOO
SHOOO
SHOOO
HRM?
SHOOO
SHOOO
SHOOO
J
I
I
SHOO
HRM?
SHOOO
...I WAS ABOUT TO SAY I STILL WASN'T SO SURE...
PBT
SHOOO
...WE'RE DOOMED!

YOU
WHAT ARE YOU?

A GHOST?
NO... I MEAN...
THEN, WHERE'S YOUR REAL BODY?
NO. SINCE I CAN SEE YOU PLAYING THE PAY. ARE YOU SOME SORT OF A "LIVING SOUL"?
UH... UH MM
WELL...
ACTUALLY...
WHAT?
ACTUALLY?
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF...

WHISH
SORRY
I DON'T FEEL LIKE JOKING AROUND WITH YOU!
YOU TALK ABOUT REAL BODIES OR LIVING SPIRITS AS IF I'M A GHOST...
BUT I NEVER DIED
I JUST STARTED FADING AWAY ONE DAY

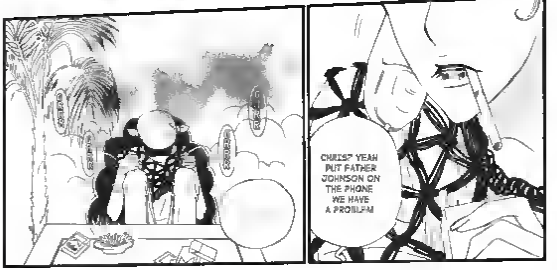
DEPRESSED
NOW THERE ARE EVEN PEOPLE LIKE SKIPPY WHO CAN'T SEE ME AT ALL
IS MY CONDITION GETTING WORSE?
SLIDE
I CAN STILL TOUCH YOU!
WOW!
TAP!
TAP!
BUT...
WHY IS IT THAT YOU CAN TOUCH ME, EVAN WHEN NOBODY, NOT EVEN IRENE CAN?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?
HUH?

WOW
WOW
WOW
PAT
PAT
...
SHUSH
SHUSH
IT'S AMAZING
HUH?
THWAP
PUT THEM AWAY
A GUY TOUCHING ME GIVES ME THE CREEPS

STRANGE...
EH-HEH...
OH, MAN
I WISH YOU'D LET ME TOUCH YOU JUST A BIT MORE...
I FEEL HEAT RISING FROM THE SPOT WHERE THE TUB TOUCHED ME.
I FEEL DIZZY. I'M EVEN SWEATING... FOR SOME REASON?
WHAT'S THIS?
HIDDEN CONSEQUENCES OF CONCUSSION?
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
RISE
RISE
RISE
RISE
RISE
RISE

GODDAMNIT—! THAT DAMN BASTARD!!!
RISE
RISE
PUFF
RISE
RISE
RISE
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
SO? ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN OUR LIVES?!
WHAT HAPPENS TO A BAND OF SOCIAL REJECTS HIDING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE IS NONE OF MY BUSINESS.
SOCIAL REJECTS?
ACK
LOSERS DEFEATED DOGS THAT RAN AWAY WITH THEIR TAILS ALL CURLED UP BETWEEN THEIR LEGS.
MEANIE
YOU PEOPLE RUINED MY VACATION REMEMBER?

KAAAAAA AAAAAA AACKK!!!
IRENE'S
THAT INTOLERABLE PHONY!
WE SHOULDVE CLUBBED HIM WITH A BASEBALL BAT, NOT A FRYING PAN!

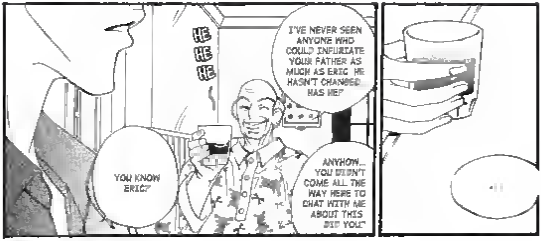

CHRIST YEAH PUT FATHER JOHNSON ON THE PHONE WE HAVE A PROBLEM

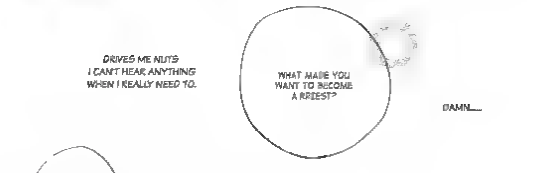
WHO'S THERE?

WHY DON'T YOU BRING OUT YOUR SECRET RED WINE FATHER?

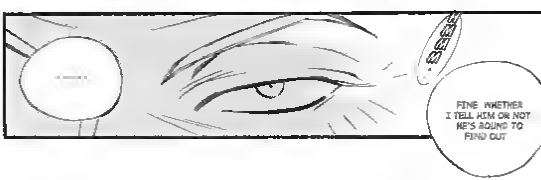
DRIP
YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER-- AN AUDACIOUS BRAT
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY CAUTIOUS EITHER.

REGARDLESS WEREN'T YOU CLOSE TO MY FATHER ONCE?
WE JUST MET AS A MEDIA CONGLOMERATE AND A BANKER
THAT REMINDS ME. WHAT'S BECOME OF YOUR BROTHER? HE WAS AN INTERESTING FELLOW


HE HE HE
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE WHO COULD INFURIATE YOUR FATHER AS MUCH AS ERIC. HE HASN'T CHANGED, HAS HE?
YOU KNOW ERIC?
ANYHOW... YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE TO CHAT WITH ME ABOUT THIS, DID YOU?


DRIVES ME NUTS. I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING WHEN I REALLY NEED TO.
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A PRIEST?
DAMN...

DID YOU HAVE A RELIGIOUS REVELATION OR SOMETHING?
THERE'S GOT TO BE A REASON WHY AN UNIMPASSIONED PERSON WHO SWINDLED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVEN IN A DAY WOULD BECOME A COUNTRY PRIEST
WHY? YOU WANT TO USE IT AS A SCOOP?
HE HE HE
LET'S JUST SAY THAT IT'S SOMETHING CLOSE TO CURIOSITY


SSSS
FINE. WHETHER I TELL HIM OR NOT HE'S BOUND TO FIND OUT

THE CAUSE IS INSIGNIFICANT AND UNIMPORTANT
I TELL YOU IT'S LIKE DESTINY
OPPORTUNITIES ARE SHOWERING DOWN ON US LIKE SHOOTING STARS.
ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.
EVEN RIGHT NOW, IN THIS VERY MOMENT

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IT CAN BE
AN AD PLASTERED ON THE PLATFORM WALL OF THE SUBWAY STOP YOU GET ON AND OFF EVERYDAY.
OR IT CAN BE AN EMPTY CAN HELD OUT BY A HOMELESS MAN STANDING IN THE CORNER.
OPPORTUNITIES ARE EVERYWHERE. JUST LISTEN TO YOUR HEART
SHIT!
TAP
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PICK OUT WHICH SHOOTING STAR YOU WANT TO GRAB ON TO.

SHOOTING STAR, MY ASS!!
GROWL!
STUPID GEEZER...
HMPH!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
WHAT...
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM!"
"THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM!"

YOU DON'T KNOW A.J CRONIN'S "THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM?"
HAHAHA...
DON'T TELL ME YOU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO CHANGE YOUR LIFE'S PATH BECAUSE YOU WERE INFLUENCED BY SOME RUSTY OLD BOOK EVEN A GRAMMAR SCHOOL KID WOULDN'T READ

OF COURSE I DID WHY NOT?
FLASH
I TELL YOU THAT WAS MY SHOOTING STAR!

I'M FATHER BROWN NOW I'M OFFICIALLY ORDAINED BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH!
MR. HENRY PARKER!
I WAS FEELING REALLY STRANGE THAT DAY
THAT MORNING I CUT MYSELF WHILE SHAVING I WAS IN A HURRY TO GET TO WORK YOU SEE

AND THEN, I REALIZED SOMETHING. I'VE BEEN SO BUSY EVERYDAY OF MY LIFE FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS THAT I NEVER EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO GO FISHING. LET ALONE GET MARRIED
AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT ONCE I FELT LIKE A VICTIM FOR SOME REASON I COULDN'T GET IT OUT OF MY MIND

THE REVELATION I HAD THAT MORNING BOTHERED ME MORE THAN RISING INTEREST RATES AND FALLING EXCHANGE RATES
SO, I FINALLY CAVED IN AND TOOK SOME TIME OFF TO GO FISHING
I COULDN'T CATCH ANYTHING FOR THREE WHOLE DAYS, PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS A ROOKIE. BUT STRANGELY, I FELT PRETTY GOOD

I READ A BOOK TOO. I FELT GOOD AND IT WAS JUST AN ABSOLUTE PAGE-TURNER
YES, THIS IS IT!
THE KEY TO THE PANDEMIC
AFTER SPENDING THREE DAYS LIKE THAT, I CAME TO A REALIZATION
WALL STREET NO LONGER HAD WHAT I WANTED!!
TAP

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S HOW YOU OVERCAME YOUR MID-LIFE CRISIS?
HMPH
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU BELIEVE ME OR NOT. WHAT CAUSES THE CHANGE ISN'T IMPORTANT
GRIN
SWISH
THANK YOU FOR THE WINE!
YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING
SIGH
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO SEE THIS OLD MAN INSTEAD OF RUNNING STRAIGHT BACK TO NEW YORK CITY
YET YOU'RE STILL AGONIZING OVER IT, AREN'T YOU?
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE "THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM" WILL BE A BEST-SELLER AGAIN
URGH!
WAS MY PREACHING NOT CHARISMATIC ENOUGH? THAT CAN'T BE!
LISTEN TO ME, PRYCE!
INTUITION ONLY STRIKES ONCE, LIKE LIGHTNING, THEN IT FLICKERS AND DISAPPEARS!
STOP BEING SO STUCK UP AND LISTEN TO YOUR HEART! WHAT DO YOU WANT, AND HOW DO YOU WANT IT?!

SHIT. I'M THROUGH. I'M DOING AROUND TALKING TO SOME OLD BOOK.
OW!
WHAT CAUSES THE CHANGE ISN'T IMPORTANT.

INTUITION ONLY STRIKES ONCE LIKE LIGHTNING THEN IT FLICKERS AND DISAPPEARS!

TOSS
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

AH... UM
SLIDE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WELL...
UM

EV..AN...
I HEARD YOU RE GOING TO MAKE EVERYBODY UNCOMFORTABLE.
...NOW I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.
PITIFULLY HESITANT, YET...
I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY FOR YOU EITHER...
ASKING FOR MY SINCERITY...

THOSE EYES.
SO...
THOSE EYES THAT BELIEVE BY OFFERING SINCERITY, THEY'LL RECEIVE SINCERITY IN RETURN.
SO...
SLIDE
YOU OFFERING YOURSELF UP AS A SACRIFICE? ARE YOU WILLING TO BE DRAGGED TO SOME PARANORMAL RESEARCH LAB?
I FEEL LIKE BEING CRUEL.
DRABBER?
EVAN?
WHAT...
SO I CAN DO
THE INFLUENCE FROM THE APOSTLE WASTEFUL

CLASH
HAH
SHIT
JEAN!
IF YOU COME WITHIN 4 FEET OF ME, I'LL DO IT AGAIN.
HAH

I'M POSITIVE THAT FRYING PAN THE IDIOTIC TOURE VILLIAN SWUNG AT ME

NOT ONLY DAMAGE THE BACK OF MY HEAD

BUT ALSO DAMAGED SOMETHING INSIDE ME.

SERIOUSLY, SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY HEAD.
AHHH
WHY YOU SHAMELESS JERK!
HOW DARE YOU ...?!
TRENE'S

ROUREVILLIANS' EMERGENCY MEETING
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
WOW
EVERYBODY'S HERE ANYWAY
HE'S SMILING
HE'S SMILING
SVOOM
SVOOM
IF YOU'RE THINKING OF USING US TO FILL THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, YOU'D BETTER THINK TWICE
I STILL THINK ONE SHOT FROM THIS GUN WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...
THAT'S THE LAST RESORT... THE VERY LAST
HEY, IF YOU GUYS ARE ARMED ROBBERS, WHY CAN'T YOU JUST RUN AWAY LIKE ROBBERS?
IT'S WAY BETTER THAN TAKING CARE OF DEAD BODIES
ZAP
B... BUT ...!!

WE WANT TO LIVE HERE!
WE FINALLY FOUND ACCEPTANCE AND WE'RE LEARNING NEW SKILLS, TOO!
LOOK HERE, MR. PRYCE
THUD
WE JUST WANT TO "LIVE" HERE
JUST LIKE YOU LIVING IN NEW YORK,
LIKE FISH BREATHING IN WATER
RIGHT
NOD
YEAH.
FOR US, THIS IS OUR HOME SWEET HOME

HAHA
SWEET HOME THAT'S REALLY MOVING
THEN CAN I MAKE A LONG DISTANCE PHONE CALL?
WHAT NERVE!
YOU'RE NOT CALLING ANYBODY!
IF YOU LET ME, THERE'S GOING TO BE GOOD NEWS
?
?
GOOD NEWS? CAN WE TRUST HIM?
NEW YORK
R R R R R
BOSS? PRYCE IS ON LINE 3
PRYCE PERFECT TIMING EVERYTHING'S FINE. SO YOU CAN COME BACK SOON

CRASH
QUIT?!
LOOK PAYCE I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THIS
IF YOU REALLY WANT YOU CAN BE ON LEAVE OR TAKE SOME TIME OFF...
CLICK
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
THAT SON OF A BITCH!
FUUU
AND HE FINALLY GOT NOMINATED FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE

LIL' IRENE'S
DU-HHHHH
.....
.....
WHY IS HE HERE? TRYING TO GET US WITH A SUICIDE BOMB?
PST...
YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND DUDE?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?

WITH THAT, I HAVE NOW JOINED THESE BAND OF LOSERS, HUH?
LOSERS?
ACK!
OF COURSE YOU WILL COMPENSATE FOR MY LOSS PLENTIFULLY WON'T YOU?
COMPENSATE?
YOU QUIT ALL ON YOUR OWN WHY SHOULD WE COMPENSATE YOU FOR THAT?
YOU MUST BE REALLY CRAZY!

—ME? CRAZY?
AHH, YOU STUPID NOUREVILIAN!!!...
YOU FED ME SOME MYSTERIOUS DRINKS, WRECKED MY CAR, AND EVEN CRACKED THE BACK OF MY SKULL...
SO, I GUESS YOU GAVE ME YOUR "STUPID" VIRUS, TOO...

DAMN
ROUREVILLIANS...

WHAT? LISTEN TO MY HEART? SWEET HOME? SCREW THAT BULLSHIT

I WANT TO REST

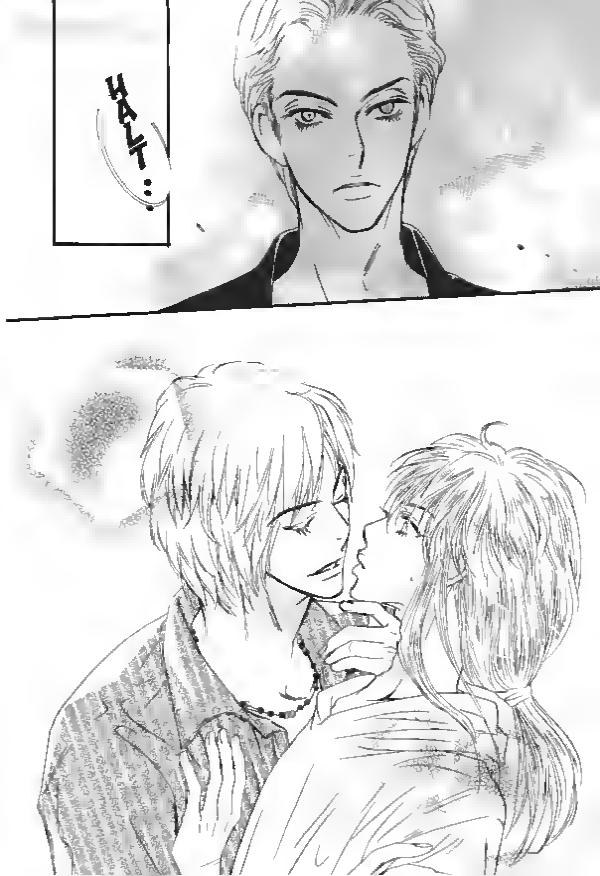
NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, I JUST WANT TO REST NOW.

SOMEONE CAME LOOKING FOR YOU SO I GAVE THEM JAYCE'S ADDRESS
UMPH
LOOKING FOR ME? BUT NOBODY KNOWS I'M HERE
DID THE PERSON LOOK HISPANIC?
NO. SOME TALL PLAYBOY AND
A PRETTY LADY

SINCE BECOMING UNEMPLOYED I'VE BEEN ENJOYING MY FIRST TRULY PEACEFUL DAYS IN YEARS

EVERY DAY I PECK AWAY AT MY NOVEL IS A DAY I GIVE THEM A TASTE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE TO MY HEART'S CONTENT

SURPRISINGLY, I'M CONTENT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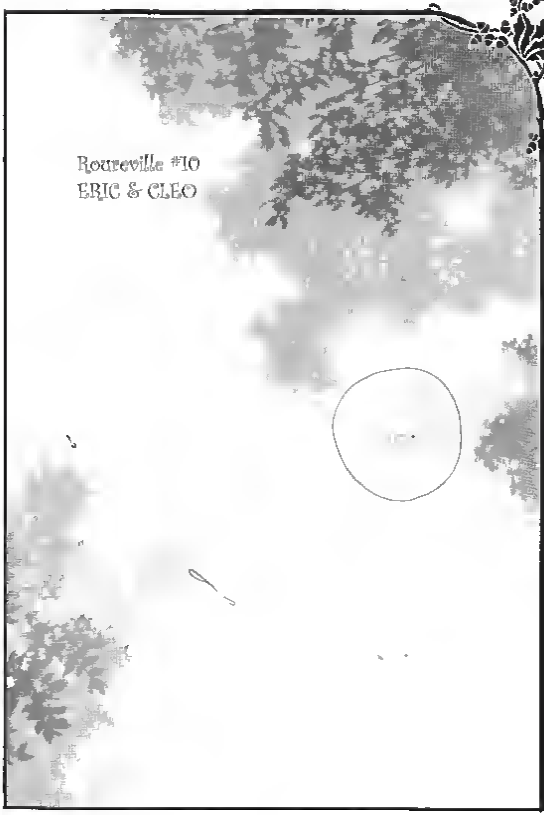

Rouseville #10
ERIC & CLEO

I DON'T KNOW WHICH THOUGHT POPPED INTO MY HEAD FIRST.

WHAT'S THAT ASSHOLE DOING HERE?
HOW IS HE ABLE TO TOUCH JAYCE?
SINCE WHEN WAS HE ATTRACTED TO NOBODIES?
EVAAAAN?
GRAB
URGH!
TEVAN
SHUCK SHUCK
SHUCK SHUCK
SHUCK SHUCK
SHUCK SHUCK
HEY, BABY COME ON--
THIS THIS MAN'S WEIRD--!
YOU KNOW HIM?
SO, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TOUCH HIM?
WAH!
DON'T JUST STARE AT ME, I'M SOMETHING--

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...
SMOOCH
BAM!
HEH-EH-EH-EH-EH-EH
WH..WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PUTTING YOUR HAND IN!
HEH-EH-EH-EH-EH-EH
SWISH
KA
POW
YOU PERVERTED BASTARD!
ERIC-!

HEY
HEY WAKE UP!
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO TO HIM?!
I FOUND MYSELF SWINGING MY FIST AT HIM AS SOON AS I HEARD JAYCE SCREAM.
I DON'T RECALL HAVING YOU FOR A BROTHER!
TAP
YOU'VE BECOME A BIT ROUGH SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU A FEW YEARS BACK
HELLO, BABY BROTHER

SERIOUSLY, HE'S ACTING LIKE AN IDIOT WHO'S MISSING SOMETHING IN HIS BRAIN.
UM, EVAN? I THINK YOU SHOULD PAY A LITTLE ATTENTION TO THAT PERSON OVER THERE TOO
ZING
ZING
ZING
ZING
NO WONDER, I FELT THE BACK OF MY HEAD BURNING WITH SOMEONE'S STARE...
NO WAY...
HI HONEY~

CL...CLEO!
GOODNESS~, I GUESS YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE YOUR INSIGNIFICANT FIANCÉE
THE NEW YORK OFFICE SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW YOUR WHEREABOUTS! AND YOUR CELL PHONE'S EVEN OFF, TOO!

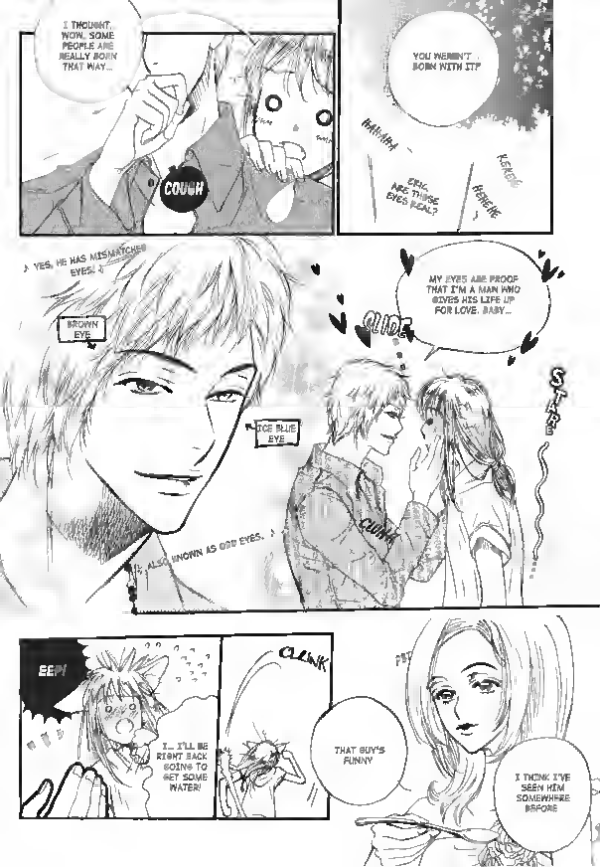
IF IT WASN'T FOR ERIC WE COULDN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR.
SHE MEANS ME. I'M MORE USEFUL THAN I LOOK
A GUY WHO HAS BEEN A NOMAD FOR ALMOST A DECADE.
WON~
CLEO YOUR DRESS IS GETTING WRINKLED ISN'T THAT A HAUT COUTURE?
HUHU
JUST A STUMP PRESS!
COUGH!
GOODNESS~
WHAT GOOD IS IT THAT IT'S A COUTURE? I MEAN A CERTAIN PERSON WON'T EVEN NOTICE ME
ANYHOW THIS PLACE WAS SO HARD TO FIND!
ERIC ASKED EVERY SINGLE PERSON WE MET ON THE ROAD ABOUT ROUKEVILLE THAT'S HOW WE GOT HERE.

THANKS TO THAT, WE HAD A CHANCE TO WATCH A MAGIC SHOW
STAB
STAB
STAB
WINK
WINK
RIGHT. IT WAS A LOT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT. NOT EVEN IN VEGAS
SMOOCH
IT WAS AT SOME SECLUDED DRIVE-IN CAFE
CAFE
THE OWNER AND GUESTS ALL BLENDED TOGETHER LIKE FAMILY. IT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SHOW

AND WE HAVE A RIDE TO SOME GUY WHO FELL ASLEEP LYING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD! WE REMEMBER!!! YOU EVAN!
LOOK, IT'S DANGEROUS TO SLEEP OUT ON THE OPEN ROAD
ZZZ
ZZZ
SIGH
EVAN, DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A PLACE CALLED PARIS IN TEXAS?
PARIS
SULPHUR SPR
THERE REALLY IS ONE!
AND AT THE FRONT OF THE VILLAGE THERE WAS THIS STRANGE PRIEST... HE JUST WENT "SWISH SWISH SWISH"
SWISH-SWISH SWISH...
WHOA~
AREN'T YOU ERIC?
WELCOME TO ROUREVILLE!
SWISH
YOU KNOW PEOPLE FROM THIS TOWN?
UM- HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
SNATCH
STUFFY KEELER-PRIEST HE'S TRAINA FAVORITES...
...I CAN KIND OF SEE WHAT YOU GUYS HAVE BEEN THROUGH

SHOULD I BE SURPRISED...?
HE'S MY BROTHER, BUT I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN AROUND HIM
YEAH, HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT
SERIOUS
ERIC TOLD ME HE WOULD TAKE ME TO INDIA SOMEDAY
HE SAID THERE'S THIS THING CALLED LEAF FORTUNE TELLING OVER THERE AND THEY TELL YOU EVERYTHING FROM YOUR PAST LIFE TO THE FUTURE ONE BASED ON YOUR FINGER PRINTS!
ANYWAY, WHAT'S HE STARING AT SO INTENTLY?
DUH
HEH
HUH
I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE.

SLIDE
WHAT ARE YOU...
LOOKING AT WITH THAT BURNING STARE BABY...
SLIDE
HER
PRETTY EYES..
EEP~
HE TRIED TO KISS YOU EARLIER BECAUSE YOU WERE STARING AT HIM THEN TOO RIGHT?
I JUST... EACH OF HIS EYES HAS A DIFFERENT COLOR... AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE PRETTY...


I THOUGHT, WOW, SOME PEOPLE ARE REALLY BORN THAT WAY...
COUGH
YOU WEREN'T BORN WITH IT?
HUH?!
EH?... ARE THOSE EYES REAL?
KEKKE
AHHEM
♪ YES, HE HAS MISMATCHED EYES! ♪
BROWN EYE
ICE BLUE EYE
♪ IT ALSO KNOWN AS ODD EYES. ♪
MY EYES ARE PROOF THAT I'M A MAN WHO GIVES HIS LIFE UP FOR LOVE. BABY...
GLIDE
CLINK
SIGH
EEP!
I... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK GOING TO GET SOME WATER!
CLINK
THAT GUY'S FUNNY
I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE

WHERE DID I SEE HIM...?
YOU'VE MET JAYCE BEFORE?
HOW CAN YOU EAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!!
...WHY ARE YOU HERE? AND YOU EVEN DRAGGED ARTIC ALONG WITH YOU

THAT'S OF COURSE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CONTACT ME~
KUKUKU
GO BACK FIRST.
AND DON'T CONTACT THE NEW YORK TIMES OFFICE FROM NOW ON.
I QUIT MY JOB
YOU QUIT?
AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT IT...
YUP
YOU BASTARD!
IF YOU CAN'T AVOID IT,
IT'S BEST TO COLLIDE WITH IT HEAD ON.

JUST LEAVE ME, PLEASE.

YOU BASTARD!

AH... JUST TURN YOUR BACK ON ME AND LEAVE ME.

YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS... ALL THE TIME!

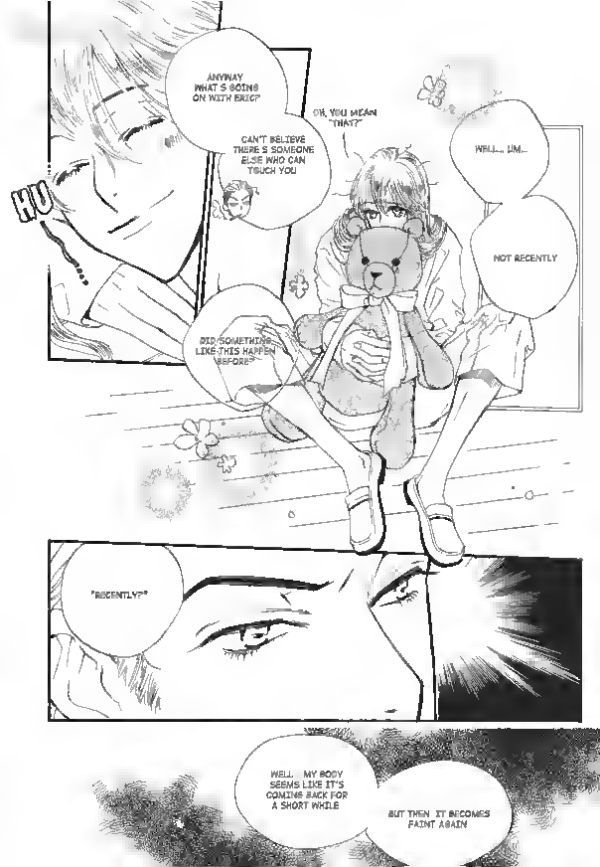
IT'S BURDENSOME TO LOOK AT YOUR EYES.

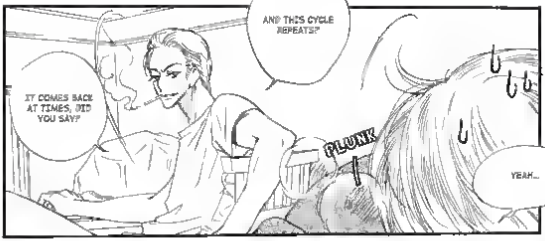
DON'T...

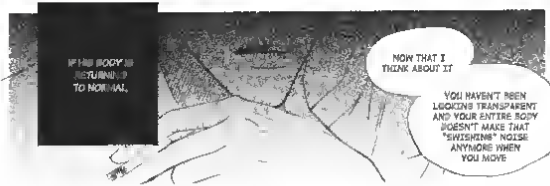
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, EVAN?

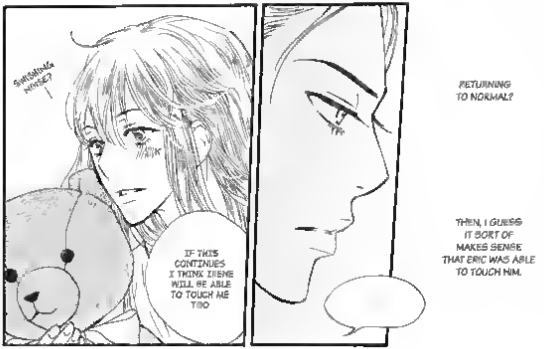
EXPECT ANYTHING FROM ME.

I CAN'T WRITE ANYTHING.
JAYCE! YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT?
SIGH
YE-HI?
I'M SORRY FOR DRAGGING MORE PEOPLE INTO THIS HOUSE, ESPECIALLY WHEN I'M A SPONGER.
I'M STILL SUBSTITUTING FOR THE DEAD CAT.


ANYWAY WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ERIC?
CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN TOUCH YOU
HU
OH, YOU MEAN "THAT"
WELL... UM...
NOT RECENTLY
DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN BEFORE?
"RECENTLY?"
WELL... MY BODY SEEMS LIKE IT'S COMING BACK FOR A SHORT WHILE
BUT THEN IT BECOMES PAINT AGAIN


AND THIS CYCLE REPEATS?!
IT COMES BACK AT TIMES, DID YOU SAY?
PLUNK
YEAH...


IF HIS BODY IS RETURNING TO NORMAL,
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LOOKING TRANSPARENT AND YOUR ENTIRE BODY DOESN'T MAKE THAT "SWISHING" NOISE ANYMORE WHEN YOU MOVE


SWISHING NOISE?
WINK
IF THIS CONTINUES I THINK IRENE WILL BE ABLE TO TOUCH ME TOO
RETURNING TO NORMAL?
THEN, I GUESS IT SORT OF MAKES SENSE THAT ERIC WAS ABLE TO TOUCH HIM.

WELL, THE SITUATION ITSELF IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.
BUT CLEO WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM, TOO.
LET ME THINK. STARTING WITH ME, HE GRADUALLY BECOMES ABLE TO TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE....
RYAN?
SCENT
IS IT ALL JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT IT STARTED WITH ME?
I SAVE CLEO MY ROOM. THOSE DEVILS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GOING TO MOOCH OFF YOU HERE FOR A WHILE... WHAT TO DO.....?

Roureville

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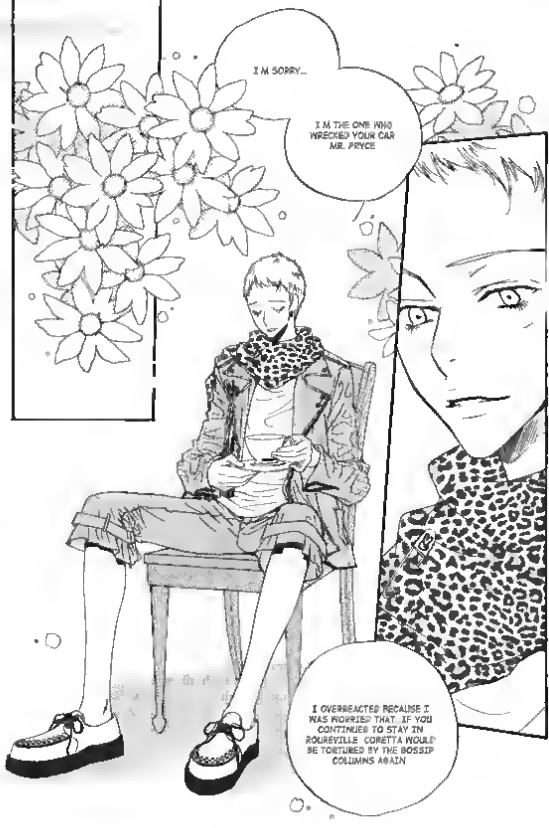
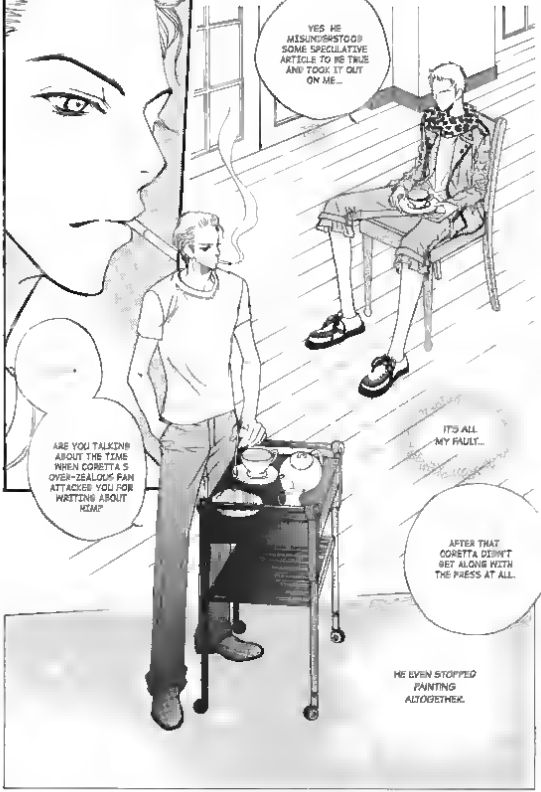
Roureville #11
Motion
Emotion

Knock!
Knock
WHO IS IT FOR?
COMING! I'M COMING...
EH?
Smile
HELLO IT'S ME GAL!

WHEE
EEE...
I... HAVE TO TELL HIM THAT I WAS THE ONE...
WHO DID IT?
HM
THE CULPRIT WHO TRASHED MY CAR HAS COME TO VISIT WITH AN APPLE PIE IN HIS HANDS.


I'M SORRY...
I'M THE ONE WHO WRECKED YOUR CAR MR. PRYCE
I OVERREACTED BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED THAT IF YOU CONTINUED TO STAY IN ROUSEVILLE CORETTA WOULD BE TORTURED BY THE GOSSIP COLUMNS AGAIN


YES HE MISUNDERSTOOD SOME SPECULATIVE ARTICLE TO BE TRUE AND TOOK IT OUT ON ME...
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE TIME WHEN CORETTA'S OVER-ZEALOUS FAN ATTACKED YOU FOR WRITING ABOUT HIM?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT...
AFTER THAT CORETTA DIDN'T GET ALONE WITH THE PRESS AT ALL.
HE EVEN STOPPED PAINTING ALTOGETHER.

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU RUBBING CORETTA THE WRONG WAY AND GOT CARRIED AWAY....
AH-HA HA HA
I'LL PAY FOR THE REPAIRS TO YOUR CAR. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP...
HMM
FROOSH!
EVAAAAN!
KAPLUNK
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU EXPECT ME TO SURVIVE ON THIS CRAP?!

ALL YOU SERVE IS THIS PIG FEED!!
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN STARVE!

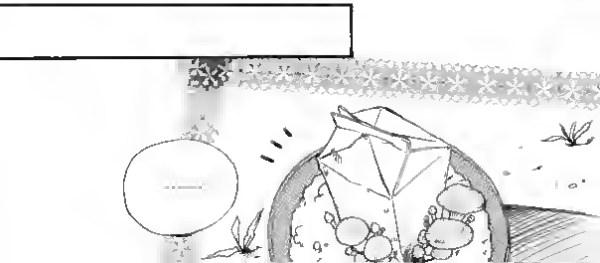
HEY!
CLUNK
HMPH!
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
I ALSO HAPPEN TO LIVE ON THAT PIG FEED! THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO

HAH!
SHEESH!
IT MAKES NO SENSE THERE AREN'T ANY RESTAURANTS IN THIS TOWN. PEOPLE LIVE HERE...
WHO?
A NEW GUY!
OH~ LOVE~
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS CRAZY AWESOME BEAUTIFUL PIE~~~?
SUCH A BIG PUSS HE'S MAKING
EVAN
BIG PUSSY, IF I CONTINUE EATING YOUR PIE FEEDS MY TASTE BUDS WILL DIE. I WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ASSWARE AND WINE
SCRWARE OR WINE, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF THEY'RE BOTH GOING DOWN YOUR WORTHLESS PIPE?
UM...
UM
EVAN, YOUR FIANCEE HAS BEEN STARVING FOR DAYS, AND...
EXCUSE ME!
AHHAHA

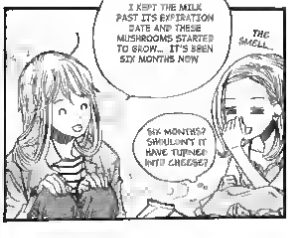
I THINK I CAN HELP YOU OUT WITH THIS
Oh~♥
I'M A FAIRLY GOOD COOK SO
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO MADE THIS AWESOME PIE?

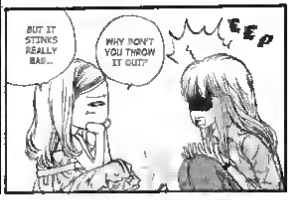
YOU DON'T MEAN... YOU'LL KEEP BAKING FOR US DO YOU?
THANKS FOR THE OFFER, BUT SHAMELESSLY MOOCHING OFF YOU EVERYDAY WON'T SOLVE THIS PROBLEM
YES SO~

I'LL TEACH YOU HOW TO COOK

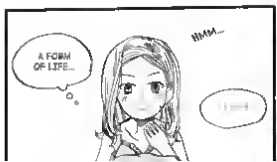

.....

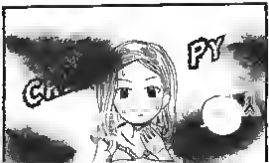
SOMETHING STINKS THE MILK CARTON? THIS FLOWERPOT COULD ALSO BE THE CULPRIT
CHUS
THEY'RE MUSHROOMS


I KEPT THE MILK PAST IT'S EXPIRATION DATE AND THESE MUSHROOMS STARTED TO GROW... IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS NOW
THE SMELL...
SIX MONTHS? SHOULDN'T IT HAVE TURNED INTO CHEESE?


BUT IT STINKS REALLY BAD...
WHY DON'T YOU THROW IT OUT?
EEP

MMM...
BUT... IT'S A FORM OF LIFE

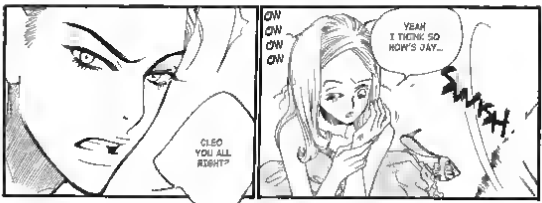

A FORM OF LIFE...
MMM...


PY

HELLO!
KYACK
A BUG! A BUG!!
CLUNK
EEAK
THUMP
KYA-CHA
CLEO!

THUMP
YIKES

WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?!
OH BOY


CLEO YOU ALL RIGHT?
ON ON ON ON
YEAH I THINK SO HOW'S JAY...
SWISH

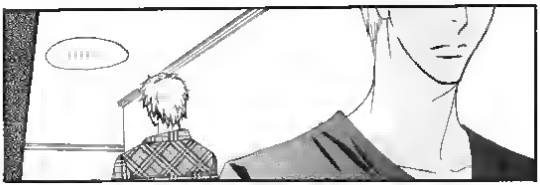
YOU DIDN'T YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
YOU OKAY?!
OH I'M...!
SHH!
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?!
JAYCE!

YOU'RE REALLY OKAY, RIGHT? YOU FEEL PAIN ANYWHERE?
WHY DON'T YOU GET CHECKED OUT BY A DOCTOR JUST TO BE SURE?
HA HA
IT'S NOT THAT BAD. I'M REALLY, REALLY OKAY
REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES! YOU MIGHT BE HURT IN A PLACE WE CAN'T SEE.
TUG
ACK
EH?! SERIOUSLY, I'M PERFECTLY FINE!

I'M TELLING YOU ACCIDENTS CAN HAVE HIDDEN CONSEQUENCES!
CONSEQUENCES? YEAH RIGHT
ACK
EVAN STOP HIM PLEASE!
T
D

TAP
TAP
AH!
EVAN!
BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU- HAVE YOU SEEN JAYCE?
ERIC
I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE
DON'T CONFUSE HIM WITH LOUIS.

WHAT I MEAN IS
HE'S NOT GOING TO
SUDDENLY COLLAPSE
OR LOSE HIS SIGHT.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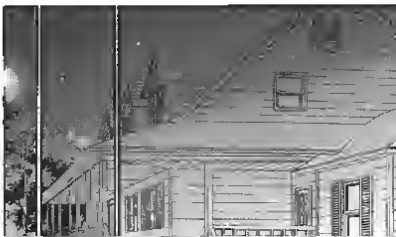


WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SUCH AN OOP PLACE?
...
BLUSH
BLUSH
WHERE YOU GOING?
GRAB
THUD
Y ...YOU TOLD ME TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU... AT LEAST 3 FEET...
THUMP
THUMP
IT DOESN'T COUNT WHEN I APPROACH YOU

MAYBE HE'S RETARDED OK...
OH YEAH!"
KO
FF
JAYCE ABOUT YOU PROTECTING CLEO EARLIER TODAY...
YOU CAN'T KEEP THROWING YOURSELF IN HARM'S WAY AS IF IT'S NOTHING
IT'S KIND OF FUCKING ME OFF.
THAT TIME WHEN JULES TRIED TO STAB ME, YOU JUMPED RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM TOO.
WHAT'S UP WITH ALL THE THOUGHTLESS SELF-SACRIFICE"

MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT WHEN I SAW HIS BODY LYING AMONG THE DEBRIS.
...THAT'S WHY
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU
WORRY ME SO?
BECAUSE YOU AND CLEO ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO SOMEONE
IF YOU DIE OR GET HURT, THAT'LL MAKE SOMEONE CRY
WARRIOR
THEN...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU SAYING IT'S OKAY IF YOU DIE OR GET HURT?!
IT DEFINITELY SOUNDS STRANGE IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, BUT...
I DON'T EVEN HAVE FAMILY, AND...
CRY
ARE YOU STUPID?!
WHAT DOES IT MATTER IF YOU SAVE SOMEONE ELSE ONLY TO DIE YOURSELF?
THAT ENDS YOUR WORLD, TOO!

JUST A BIT MORE!
VALUE YOURSELF JUST A BIT MORE
.....
PBT
HOW CAN YOU LAUGH IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?

SOMEWHERE I SEE YOU! WHY DOES IT FEEL SO NOSTALGIC?
NOTHING... WHAT YOU JUST SAID REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE
HM
WHY IS THAT?
CE.
JAYCE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO—
...LOVE YOURSELF JUST A BIT MORE !

JAYCE.
WHEN YOU'RE SMILING, THE WHOLE WORLD SMILES WITH YOU. WHEN YOU'RE CRYING, THE WHOLE WORLD CRIES WITH YOU. THAT'S HOW IT IS. A BIT MORE—
LOVE YOURSELF JUST A BIT MORE.

Roureville

VOL.2 Ch.1

HMM
WHO THE HELL IS THIS MISSY?
SHE'S GUEST.
YOU!
WHATEVER. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU GET OUT OF THE WAY. THIS STUFF'S HEAVY!
YOU'RE PAMELA TOPAZ, RIGHT?
OH WOW---- I HEARD YOU RETIRED. BUT IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO MEET YOU HERE IN PERSON.
!!!!!!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU HAD TO PAY AN INSANE AMOUNT OF PENALTY FOR SUDDENLY ANNOUNCING YOUR RETIREMENT (WHICH WAS A BREACH OF YOUR CONTRACT)?
THAT'S LOOK-
IS IT ALSO TRUE THAT Y... I MEAN, DISLOCATED SONYA VOYDAR'S ARM BACKSTAGE DURING YOUR LAST SHOW?
NO. I ONLY "CARESSED" SONYA'S CHEEKBONE (WITH MY FIST OF COURSE). AND AS FOR THE PENALTY
KWA
WHO IS THIS GIRL? HOW DOES SHE KNOW ALL THAT?
IRENE, YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT?
YUP. THAT I DO.
HER FATHER'S THE OWNER OF A NUBE CLOTHING STORE~.

OWNER OF A CLOTHING STORE... STILL, BE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD...
ANYWAY. HOW IS IT THAT YOU'RE WITH JAYCE ~ AREN'T YOU THE PEOPLE WHO ASKED ME FOR DIRECTIONS BEFORE?
HUH?!

IRENE~!
I NEED THAT THING FATHER BROWN ASKED YOU FOR

THE DVD
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF STRANGERS
FINALLY GOT IT
EEEEK!!
CHRIS!! THAT DVD WON'T BE HERE UNTIL NEXT WEEK
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? I NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RYAN'S GUESTS
AH!

YOU!
YOU'RE CHRISTOPHER BAILEY, AREN'T YOU? THE "VANISHED PIANIST!"

WHAP!
I'M BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE WHEN IT COMES TO RECOGNIZING FACES
I HEARD YOU WENT MISSING! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHAT A FUSSY KID!
Ding Dong!
WHY IS IT SO NOISY ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THE ONLY CUSTOMER WHO'S BUYING ANYTHING --- EVAN

Ca-me on~
JAYCE, LET ME TALK TO YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES
FROM PAMELA TO CHRIS! RAUENVILLE IS REALLY A STRANGE PLACE!

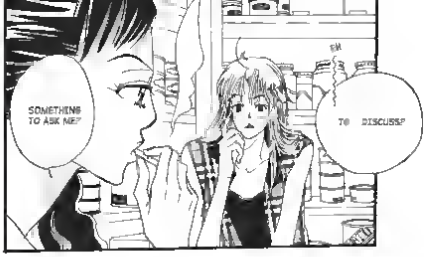
WHAT'S GOING ON? THAT DUDE... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CAN TOUCH YOU
ON ERIC HE'S EVAN'S OLDER BROTHER
I WAS SURPRISED TOO
HAVE YOU TURNED BACK TO NORMAL BY ANY CHANCE?
AHF!

WHISH
PISH! NOT YET YOU HAVEN'T
IRENE!
STOP PLAYING GAMES!
I TOLD YOU WHENEVER A HAND GOES THROUGH ME, I GET CHILLS RUNNING DOWN MY SPINE
MAYBE ONLY MEN CAN TOUCH YOU
WELL
MAYBE MEN WILL ACTUALLY BE BETTER FOR YOU
I'M A WOMAN MYSELF BUT YOU NEVER WERE HAPPY WHENEVER YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH A WOMAN
AM I NOT RIGHT? YOUR GIRLFRIEND RAN AWAY WITH YOUR MONEY
THAT STALKER WAS A WOMAN TOO

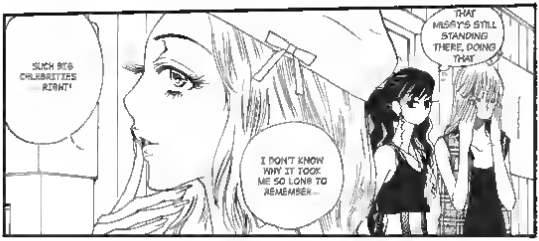
AND THAT GIRLFRIEND OF YOURS WHO SUPPOSEDLY WAS LIKE A FAMILY TO YOU...
AH...

I'M SORRY... I PRETEND YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT

IN ANY CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE MORE GUESTS NOW SO HOW'RE YOU DOING?
OH... RIGHT IRENE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU


SOMETHING TO ASK ME?
EH
TO DISCUSS?

TAPP
DID YOU PICK OUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED?
OH HA HA
I'M JUST HERE TO LOOK AROUND. THAT'S ALL.
ANYWAY, THIS TOWN SURE IS SOMETHING
PAMELA AND CHRISTOPHER... THAT'S ONE AMAZING SCOOP


SUCH BIG CELEBRITIES RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW WHY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REMEMBER...
THAT MISSY'S STILL STANDING THERE, DOING THAT

I MEAN JAYCE.
HE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THE MAGAZINE COVER MODEL I LIKED WHEN I WAS LITTLE
HALT
HE WAS ALSO IN SOME COLOGNE AD... BUT HE WAS ONLY IN THE BUSINESS BRIEFLY. FOR 2 OR SO YEARS... SO HE'S NOT THAT FAMOUS
HIS NAME WAS JUBE I LIKED HIM A LOT BECAUSE HE HAD THAT OOOLY MYSTERIOUS AIR ABOUT HIM
JAYCE...DID YOU EVER DO MODELING?
ERIC, WHEN D'YOU GET HERE AGAIN?!
CLEO, HUH? SHE MUST BE REALLY GOOD WITH FACES AS SHE SAYS. SHOULDN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN WITH HER...

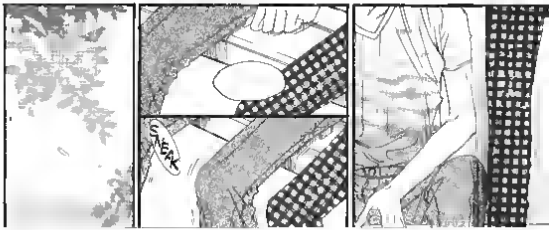
JUDE
HOWEVER...IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE JAYCE IS IN HIS EARLY 20S, TOPS
JUDE IS PROBABLY WELL OVER HIS 30S NOW
BUT JAYCE REALLY LOOKS LIKE HIM~ PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE HIM IF HE SAID HE WAS JUDE
JAYCE YOU INTERESTED IN MODELING?
I CAN INTRODUCE YOU TO A PRETTY GOOD MODELING AGENCY
"UH~ UHM"
STOP IT CLEO~ I DON'T THINK JAYCE WILL LIKE STUFF LIKE THAT
HMPH!
WHATEVER
...!!!

ALL SORTS OF THOUGHTS ARE STREAMING INTO MY HEAD.
IT WAS DIFFICULT TO HEAR WHAT [illegible] WAS THINKING BECAUSE I KEPT GETTING CUT OFF WITH CLICKS, BUT
IF CLEO'S CORRECT THERE'S NO PROBABILITY THAT JAYCE AND JUPE ARE THE SAME PERSON.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, JAYCE HAS THE FOGGIEST PAST OF ALL ADVERSILLIANS.

WHO GIVES A DAMN.

HIS IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS THAT HE'S NOT EVEN SURE IF HE'S HUMAN OR NOT LET ALONE BEING ABLE TO DEAL WITH PERSONAL PROBLEMS FROM HIS PAST

HIS VERY EXISTENCE IS A MYSTERY



ERIC CAN YOU STEP AWAY FROM ME A LITTLE?
I'M NOT USED TO SOMEONE BRUSHING ME
IT'S BECAUSE I'M FOND OF YOU, DAYCE
THE CLOSER WE ARE PHYSICALLY... THE CLOSER OUR HEARTS WILL BE
SHIT
DON'T MAKE THAT AWKWARD FACE, PLEASE.

I MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT BUT I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT
SHHF
I WON'T COME ANY CLOSER.
SO JUST A LITTLE BIT...
CAN YOU ACCEPT ME JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE?

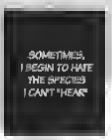
GRIP
I THOUGHT... I'D TOLD YOU NOT TO CONFUSE DAYCE WITH LOUIS
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH LOUIS. I'M DOING THIS ON MY OWN ACCORD
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ACTING AS IF DAYCE IS YOUR LOVER.

SERIOUSLY WHAT'S THE NATURE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP?
GRARR
JUST A HOME OWNER AND HIS GUEST!
RELATIONSHIP MY ASS!
WHAT?
BESIDES, THAT IDIOT CONSIDERS ME AS A REPLACEMENT FOR A CAT
HE TOOK ME INTO HIS HOUSE BECAUSE THE CAT HE USED TO HAVE DIED ON HIM...
PBTI
JAYCE DID THAT?
HE SURE IS AN INTERESTING CHARACTER.
KEH KEH

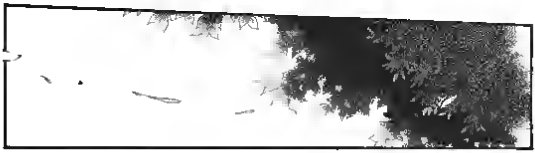
I DON'T CARE IF I AM A REPLACEMENT FOR A CAT
I
THEN CHUCKLE
HMPH
IS IT THAT FUNNY?
I
BOARD
CRAZY ASS

LOVE IS ALWAYS REBORN EVENTUALLY
EVEN WHEN IT ENDS THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN ONE FALLS IN LOVE AGAIN.
TAKING ACTION AS SOON AS HE FEELS IT IN HIS GUT ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES A REAL MAN?
IT ALL STARTS OUT THAT WAY
REAL MAN, MY ASS! HMPH!
IT'S USELESS TO WAVE YOUR HAND AFTER THE TRAIN S LEFT THE PLATFORM. JUST LIKE YOU! YOU DON'T WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE FEELING UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE AND GONE
HALT

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HEH HEH
WHAT COULD I MEAN?


SOMETIMES, I BEGIN TO HATE THE SPECIES I CAN'T "HEAR"

VERIFICABLE CREATURE



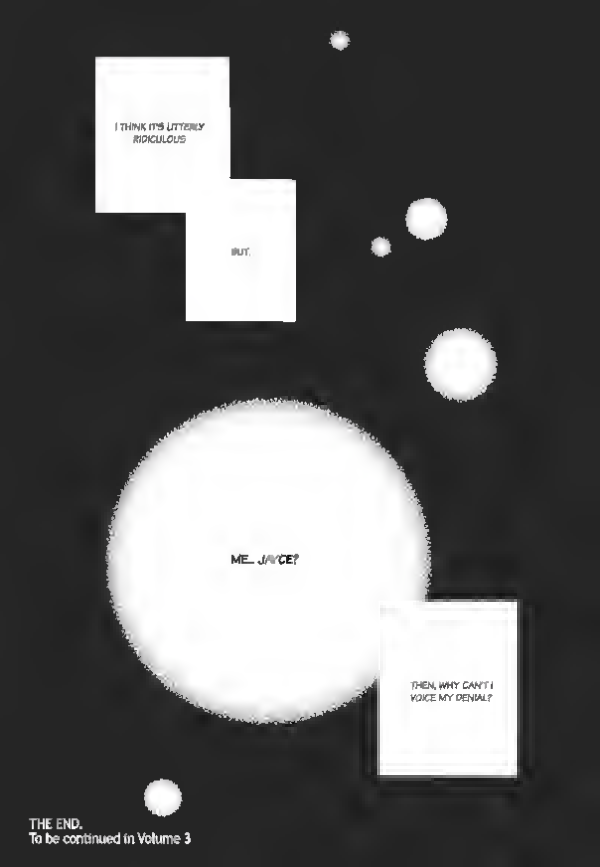
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
SMOKE...
KUMP
FROSH
?
SHUSH—
SKRUSH
...WHAT WAS THAT?

TAK
TAK
CLIK
CLIK
TAK
I M BORED
PLAY WITH ME
TAK
TAK
TAK
STOP ACTING CUTE
AND GO HOME
WHEN YOU GO
HOME . I LL GO
BACK WITH YOU
EVAN

CLEO
LET'S STOP THIS.
STOP WHAT?
THE EMBARRASSMENT
LET'S FORGET
THAT IT EVER
HAPPENED
IF YOU'RE
SAYING THAT
BECAUSE I
TOLD YOU I
WAS GOING
TO STAY
THAT'S
NOT IT!

YOU KNOW WHAT MY FEELINGS ARE LIKE, TOO
AS MUCH AS I TRY I CAN'T SEE YOU AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A LITTLE SISTER
I DON'T WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE LIKE THIS
WHY ARE YOU SO SUDDENLY STERN ABOUT THIS?
IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT GUY JAYCE?
WHAT DOES JAYCE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS?
HE HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THIS
YOU'RE PAYING TWICE AS MUCH ATTENTION TO HIM THAN TO ME, EVAN!!

THROB
HA
CLEO
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
THAT'S RIDICULOUS NONSENSE...
HAH...!
THAT'S...
FIELD LIKE MY THROAT CLOSED IN ON ME.


I THINK IT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS
BUT,
ME... JAYCE?
THEN, WHY CAN'T I VOICE MY DENIAL?
THE END.
To be continued in Volume 3